

JULY 28, 1976

ANGOLA-CUBANS TO REMAIN

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES SOME POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF CUBA 'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN ANGOLA.

VOICE: WHAT THE WORLD ALREADY SUSPECTED ABOUT THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA BECAME A LITTLE CLEARER THIS WEEK IN STATEMENTS ORIGINATING IN HAVANA AND LUANDA. IN THE CUBAN CAPITAL, FIDEL CASTRO DECLARED THAT CUBA IS PLANNING TO SEND TWO OR THREE THOUSAND TECHNICIANS TO ANGOLA. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE SOME CUBAN TROOPS ARE BEING WITHDRAWN, OTHERS WILL REMAIN. AND IN LUANDA SOMETHING MORE THAN A HINT AS TO WHY WAS DROPPED BY ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER LOPO DI NASCIMENTO. HE STATED THAT CUBAN TROOPS CONTINUE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE ANGOLAN UNITS AGAINST WHAT HE CALLED "BANDIT POCKETS" IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN HIS STATEMENT FIDEL CASTRO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CUBANS WILL STAY IN ANGOLA AS LONG AS THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT FEELS THEY ARE NEEDED-- AGAIN AN INDICATION THAT ALL IS NOT PEACEFUL IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY.

BOTH STATEMENTS, TAKEN TOGETHER, DO LITTLE TO REDUCE THE CONCERN TOUCHED OFF IN NON-COMMUNIST CAPITALS AROUND THE WORLD -- IN WASHINGTON AND IN WESTERN EUROPE, IN AFRICA AND IN LATIN AMERICA. FOR WHEN THOUSANDS OF CUBAN TROOPS LAST YEAR WERE SENT TO ANGOLA-- SOME ESTIMATES PLACED THEM AS HIGH AS FIFTEEN THOUSAND-- TO MAN THE MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF SOPHISTICATED SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT SENT TO THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FACTION FIGHTING AGAINST TWO OTHER NATIONALIST GROUPS, THE ACTION SET OFF SHOCK WAVES ELSEWHERE.

(OPT) THE JOINT SOVIET-CUBAN ACTION WAS SEEN IN MANY CAPITALS-- INCLUDING WASHINGTON-- AS INJECTING A NEW ELEMENT IN WHAT UP TO THAT TIME HAD BEEN A CIVIL CONFLICT BETWEEN ANGOLAN NATIONALISTS. THE NEW ELEMENT WAS THE ADVENT OF AN AGGRESSIVE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WORKING THROUGH ITS CLIENT STATE-- CUBA. (END OPT) AND THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE CUBANS HAS CONTINUED TO RAISE QUESTIONS IN MANY OF THE CONCERNED CAPITALS IN AFRICA AND THE WEST AS TO THE INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT. FOR IT SUGGESTS THAT THE NETO GOVERNMENT IS MAINTAINING ITSELF IN POWER ONLY THROUGH THE ACTIVE HELP OF THE CUBANS AGAINST THE REMNANTS OF WHAT AT ONE TIME REPRESENTED AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ANGOLA'S NATIONALISTS.

ASKED ABOUT CUBA'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN ANGOLA YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID SO FAR THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CUBAN WITHDRAWAL SUCH AS THAT PLEDGED BY FIDEL CASTRO IN HIS LETTER TO SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME LAST MAY. THE CUBAN PREMIER SAID HIS TROOPS WOULD PULL OUT AT A RATE OF TWO HUNDRED A WEEK. MINISTER PALME READ THE CASTRO LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AT THAT TIME AND WASHINGTON EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CUBAN PLEDGE. BUT THE CASTRO STATEMENT THIS WEEK (26 JULY) ON THE CONTINUED CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, WOULD INDICATE THAT THE PALME LETTER IS A DEAD ISSUE-- AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT. SIGNIFICANTLY, ANGOLAN PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO WAS STANDING BESIDE FIDEL CASTRO WHEN HE SPOKE. ALL OF WHICH SUGGESTS THAT MISTER NETO IS NOT MASTER IN HIS OWN HOUSE-- THAT PERHAPS HE IS REALLY A CLIENT OF THE SOVIET UNION'S OWN CLIENT, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.